

and the encyclopedia, wrote a history of the USO that would serve as the opening to the show.

The night of the Sweetheart Dance arrived, and we had the jitters. So the District Chaplain had us take hands, bow our heads and ask God to help us through this without making fools of ourselves. We walked onto the stage and to our surprise there were more than 350 people in the hall. Thankfully, the show went off without a hitch, and after all expenses, we made \$300, which we sent to the USO in the name of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Lake City, Florida.

Soon, we received numerous invitations to perform. We were asked to entertain for the residents of the Veterans Home in Lake City. We performed at a luncheon for senior citizens from five surrounding counties at the request of the local chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges. By now, the telephone calls were streaming in. Could we perform for the Shriners in May to raise more money for the USO? How about coming to the VA Hospital in April? Can you make it to some of the local festivals? Can you entertain at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Home? That would be another place where we can take up a collection for the USO. It seemed as if everyone knew about the American Legion Auxiliary USO presentation. We recognized veterans in the community at every program. The most outstanding request of all came when we were asked to appear in Tallahassee in the Rotunda at the Capitol on April 19.

Our local USO dance troupe of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Florida, is doing more than preserving an old pastime. We are rekindling a love of our country and recognizing our veterans for a job well done. We are also collecting donations for the USO so that they will be able to continue to make life a little better for our young men and women in the military who serve our country so dutifully here and around the world.

This project has truly turned into a very big red poppy.

#### TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

##### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am joined by TOM LANTOS and 27 of our colleagues in introducing a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). This bipartisan, conservation incentive program helps to protect the world's most valuable tropical forests through "debt for nature" mechanisms.

In the 105th Congress I introduced the TFCA with our former colleagues Lee Hamilton and John Kasich. It was overwhelmingly approved by the House by a vote of 356-61, passed the Senate under unanimous consent and became Public Law 105-214. The TFCA was developed with the support and input of respected environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International. Their support and ongoing commitment to this program are appreciated and commendable.

The United States has a significant national interest in protecting tropical forests in devel-

oping countries. Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits. They harbor 50-90% of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. They regulate rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, and they are of great importance to regional and global climate. Furthermore, tropical forests are breeding grounds for new medicines. Twenty five percent of prescription drugs come from tropical forests. The United States National Cancer Institute has identified over 3000 plants that are active against cancer. Seventy percent of them can be found in rain forests.

Regrettably, tropical forests are rapidly disappearing. The latest figures indicate that 30 million acres (an area larger than the State of Pennsylvania) were lost each year. The heavy debt burden of many countries is a contributing factor because often they must resort to exploitation of their natural resources (particularly the extraction of timber, oil, and precious metals) to generate revenue to service their external debt. At the same time, poor governments tend to have few resources available to set aside and protect tropical forests.

The TFCA addresses these economic pressures by authorizing the President to allow eligible countries to engage in debt swaps, buybacks or reduction/restructuring in exchange for protecting threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis.

The TFCA is based on the previous Bush Administration's Enterprise for the America's Initiative (EAI) that allows the President to restructure debt in exchange for conservation efforts in Latin America. TFCA expands on the EAI and allows protection of threatened tropical forests worldwide.

The debt for nature mechanisms in the TFCA is an effective means to leverage scarce funds available for international conservation. The host country places an amount in its tropical forest fund that typically exceeds the cost to the Treasury of the debt reduction agreement. Furthermore, because these tropical forest funds have integrity and are broadly supported within the host country, conservation organizations are interested in placing their own money in these tropical forest funds producing additional leverage of federal conservation dollars.

Last year, the United States concluded the first TFCA debt reduction agreement with Bangladesh. This outstanding agreement will help protect four million acres of mangrove forests in that country and the world's only genetically secure population of Bengal Tigers. At present, there are eleven nations on three continents interested in negotiating TFCA debt reduction agreements. Furthermore, President Bush has expressed his commitment to the program.

The International Relations Committee plans to take up the bill very soon, so I would like to invite all of our colleagues to cosponsor this important conservation measure.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCNENLY

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew McNenly of Lansing, Michigan on being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Computational Science Graduate fellowship is a rigorous, highly competitive program that provides numerous benefits to the fellows in return for a complete casework in a scientific or engineering discipline, computer science, and applied mathematics.

McNenly graduated from Howell High School in 1994 and is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing his Ph.D. in Aerospace engineering.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Matthew McNenly for being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

#### HONORING ROSEMARIE FISHER

##### HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 12th, 2001 family, friends, community leaders and well-wishers will gather to congratulate Ms. Rosemarie Fisher on her retirement as Executive Director of Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I have known Rosemarie for many years, and have always admired her vision for and hard work at Rosalie Manor, and the Milwaukee community at large. Rosalie Manor is a non-profit social service agency founded in Milwaukee in 1908 by two Misericordia Sisters to minister to pregnant, single women. While the location and programs have changed in the past 93 years, Rosalie Manor's mission and role as a leader in the field of pregnancy and parenting services in the greater Milwaukee area continues on, thanks to the commitment of Rosemarie, her staff and board members.

Rosemarie began her work at Rosalie Manor in 1975 as a part-time social worker. She remained at the Manor until 1978, when she went to New York to work at another Misericordia Sisters agency called Rosalie Hall. In 1982, Rosemarie returned to Milwaukee and Rosalie Manor as its Executive Director. During the last 19 years, through Rosemarie's insight, planning and financial expertise, Rosalie Manor has become a successful social service agency, expanding programming and the number of families served in the greater Milwaukee area. Since 1984, Rosalie Manor grew from serving 2 residents to more than 3,000 families annually, with a budget of \$450,000 to more than \$3 million.

From 1983 to 1990, Rosemarie's vision of what Rosalie Manor can and should be meant